

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2016**

1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Council members present were Bruce Bonar, Dave Karisny, Kyle Harvey, Ken Kreie, Joel Kincaid and Lou Brackett. Mayor Buck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND

Mayor Buck asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. City Manager Mike Bennett stated that there were not.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamations or presentations on the agenda.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the public.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 4, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
- B. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 18, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
- C. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF A 3.2% BEER LIQUOR LICENSE FOR LOCO TRAVEL STOP LOCATED AT 555 W RAPTOR ROAD**
- D. ASPEN VILLAGE ANNEXATION:**

- 1) **ORDINANCE 2016-15 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO WITHDRAW AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1062 18 ROAD CONTAINING 6.73 ACRES TO THE CITY OF FRUITA**
- 2) **ORDINANCE 2016-16 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO WITHDRAW AN ORDINANCE ZONING NEWLY ANNEXED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1062 18 ROAD TO A COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE**

E. ADOBE VIEW NORTH ANNEXATION:

- 1) **ORDINANCE 2016-17 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 975 18 ROAD CONTAINING 7.33 ACRES TO THE CITY OF FRUITA**
- 2) **ORDINANCE 2016-18 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ZONING NEWLY ANNEXED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 965 18 ROAD TO SOUTH FRUITA RESIDENTIAL ZONE**
- 3) **RESOLUTION 2016-47 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT (SIA) FOR THE ADOBE VIEW NORTH SUBDIVISION**
- 4) **FINAL PLAT APPLICATION – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE FINAL PLAT**

F. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A VACATION RENTAL BY OWNER (VRBO) FOR THE MINERAL HOUSE VACATION RENTAL LOCATED AT 626 MINERAL COURT

G. RESOLUTION 2016-41 – ACCEPTING EASEMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR A DEED OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN OLD CASTLE SY GROUP, INC. AND THE CITY OF FRUITA AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

H. RESOLUTION 2016-47 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC USE AT ENOCH’S LAKE PROPERTY

I. OCTOBER 2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Buck opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda. Hearing no comments from the public, she referred back to the City Council.

- **COUNCILOR KINCAID MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR BONAR SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK MARGARET SELL – ADOPTION OF THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FRUITA

1) RESOLUTION 2016-42 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2017 BUDGET YEAR

City Manager Mike Bennett stated that staff and the Council had covered the 2017 Budget in detail in a number of meetings, and those discussions were included in the minutes of those previous meetings. He said that despite being probably the most difficult budget year in the last 30 years according to City Clerk/Finance Director Margaret Sell, he felt that everyone was able to focus on priorities. Less money will be spent on Capital Projects in 2017 from the General Fund, but the City does have a large Capital Budget because of large grant awards for projects. Mr. Bennett added that a number of vehicles and pieces of equipment will be replaced next year, there be will some adjustments to salaries in specific positions (reclassifications in various departments) and contingencies have been budgeted as necessary.

Mr. Bennett thanked City Clerk/Finance Director Margaret Sell, Department Directors, the Mayor and City Council for all working together through the 2017 Budget process.

Mrs. Sell reviewed the first action item for adoption of the 2017 Budget. Resolution 2016-42 establishes the fees and charges for the 2017 Budget year. Highlights of fees increases include:

- Trash charges will go up \$0.25 per month in 2017
- Sewer charges will increase \$2.20 per month for a single-family residence and similar amounts for commercial accounts
- Irrigation maintenance charges will increase \$10 annually
- Addition of \$25 to new land development application fees on development that requires notices to the public
- Increase of \$25 in the Conditional Use Permit application fee to make it compatible with the Sketch Plan application fee
- Update to the Building Valuation Data table (done every year) based on the International Code Council's publications

Mayor Buck opened the public hearing on Resolutions 2016-42. Hearing no comments, she referred to the Council.

Councilor Bonar pointed out that both the sewer and trash rates have a senior citizen rate and asked what qualifies a person to get the senior rate. Mrs. Sell responded that the requirements for being eligible for the senior rate are based on both income and age. Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods added

that seniors must be 62 years of age and for a single person, annual income must be less than \$15,000 and married people must have an income of less than \$18,000 to qualify for the senior rate.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-42 – ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

2) RESOLUTION 2016-43 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2017 BUDGET

Mrs. Sell stated that Resolution 2016-43 actually adopts the 2017 Budget. She noted that at the last Council meeting, all the latest changes were reviewed since the Budget was initially presented at the September workshop.

Mrs. Sell stated that adoption of the 2017 Budget has an overall fiscal impact of \$22,079,025.

Mayor Buck opened the public hearing on Resolution 2016-43.

Audience member Whitney Rink asked about the mill levy; if it was something that the Council decided at the meeting or if it was something people voted on.

Mrs. Sell said she would address that during the public hearing on that Resolution.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mayor Buck closed the public hearing and referred back to the Council.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-43 – ADOPTING THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET. COUNCILOR KINCAID SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

3) RESOLUTION 2016-44 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE 2017 BUDGET

Mrs. Sell explained that Resolution 2016-44 actually appropriates the funds in the 2017 Budget so that the City can spend them. She said the same information in the Council packet was pretty much the same information; it was just presented in a different format. The overall fiscal impact of the 2017 Budget is \$22,029,025 including transfers to other funds of \$1,765,700 for a net overall fiscal impact of \$20,313,325 and Resolution 2016-44 spells out the operating expenses versus the capital expenses within each fund.

Mayor Buck opened Resolution 2016-44 to a public hearing. Hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing and referred to the City Council.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-44 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE**

WITH THE ADOPTED 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.

4) RESOLUTION 2016-45 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE MILL LEVY FOR THE 2017 BUDGET

Mrs. Sell explained that Resolution 2016-45 establishes the mill levy at 10.146 mills, which is the same amount that has been set each year since about 2008 or 2009. She continued that the assessed value for the City of Fruita is \$110,901,340, which is an increase of \$2.7 million from the prior year's assessed value (about a 3% increase), and is a result of new construction, annexations and valuation changes in property. Each mill that is assessed by the City brings in revenue of about \$110,901, so the total revenue that is brought in is \$1.1 million for the 2017 Budget, which is an increase of about \$28,000 from the prior year's budget.

Ms. Whitney Rink (in the audience) said she has heard about mill levies in conjunction with schools and people voting on them, so she wondered if it was something that is always there no matter what.

Mrs. Sell responded that prior to 2008 or 2009 in Colorado, mill levies could be increased a certain percentage. Since there is now the TABOR law, it requires an election to go to the voters to approve an increase in the mill levy. The City of Fruita has not asked for an increase in the mill levy since TABOR went into effect and Mrs. Sell noted that there are some more complicated aspects of TABOR that affects mill revenues as well, but revenues from the mill levy can only be increased by local growth (a formula calculation) and also by a Consumer Price Index (CPI). Those two factors together limit the amount of revenue a local government can take in and in addition, there is a statutory limitation of 5.5% increase in revenue.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mayor Buck closed the public hearing on Resolution 2016-45.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-45 – ESTABLISHING THE MILL LEVY ASSESSED ON PROPERTY IN FRUITA FOR THE 2017 BUDGET YEAR AT 10.146 MILLS FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO CERTIFY THE MILL LEVY TO THE MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. COUNCILOR KARISNY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

Mayor Buck pointed out for the record that staff and the City Council had spent many months working on a very difficult Budget for 2017; it wasn't something that they had just quickly skipped through. She thanked Finance Director/City Clerk Margaret Sell and recommended that if anyone had any questions about the 2017 Budget that they speak to her.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

A. CITY ENGINEER SAM ATKINS

1) GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT CONCEPTS PRESENTATION

City Engineer Sam Atkins gave staff's presentation on the Gateway Enhancements Concepts Design. He recalled that at about this same time last year, staff distributed input packets to local businesses, the Fruita Community Center and the Fruita Civic Center. 88 responses were received and Mr. Atkins' presentation reflected the overall results of that input received.

Mr. Atkins stated that the strongest themes according to the input included being welcoming/inviting, dinosaurs, biking and the Colorado National Monument. Concept designs and images focused on:

- Landscaping/Art
- Roundabout enhancement
- Bridge enhancement
- Signage
- Sense of Community

Mr. Atkins stated that essentially, the concept designs he was showing the Council (by consulting design firm Ted Ciavonne, Roberts & Associates) would help to identify projects that will have significant impact because they are first impressions of the City or because they have higher priority. The project also aims to keep with some sort of established theme and to help with way-finding.

Mr. Atkins' presentation included conceptual images (drawings and examples from other municipalities) of bridges, roundabouts, interstate off-ramps, pedestrian bridges and fencing, retaining walls, directional signs, entry monument signs and kiosks. Two separate project cost estimates were also provided for both View Impact Areas and Way-finding Priorities that included high and low costs (with 20% contingencies) for individual options and items. Most costs are expected to be significant.

Mr. Atkins noted that the first impression of the City of Fruita for the first time visitor is the I-70 overpass bridge due to its visibility from a long way away. This is also the most expensive part of the Gateway Enhancement project.

Other areas were identified as part of the Gateway Enhancement project can most simply be defined as "landscape and way-finding enhancements from Raptor Road to Aspen Avenue and the intersection of Mesa Street and Highway 6 & 50," but some areas are subject to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) constraints.

Ideas for side slopes off I-70 were native grasses or rock art. For railings for pedestrian crossings, expanding and widening the bridge would be required, which would be an extremely costly endeavor.

An idea for the roundabouts include taking the existing concrete and chiseling some score lines in it, having "Fruita" in metal lettering and capping it off with sandstone similar to what is in the downtown area. This theme would be carried through on some of the other items such as a primary directional sign. The original concept design included aluminum plate bike chain rings and Mr. Atkins said he felt that the bike gear concept could be overdone. The primary directional sign

would be located at the top of the I -70 ramp going westbound. The study also recognizes the need for a visual “beacon” entry monument signs at the intersection of Mesa Street and Highway 6 & 50. Mr. Atkins noted that there is a property owner of a small sliver of property just north of the railroad right-of-way and between this and the CDOT right-of-way, there is 55 or 60 feet of room for this sign.

The design firm also proposed some theme monuments along the Highway 340 corridor. Conceptual drawings showed monument signs both with and without the City’s new logo (the “F” in the gear).

Mr. Atkins also showed some drawings of pedestrian fencing/bridge fencing that included bike gears and steel bike chains in a couple of different colors. He noted that the bridge would need to be widened (it is currently 3 to 4 feet wide).

The presentation also showed conceptual drawings of proposed kiosks with messages that would include multiple recreational activities within the Fruita area. The design firm is proposing four or five of these up and down the Highway 340 corridor.

Mr. Atkins noted that the cost estimates included each of the above items. There were two separate spreadsheets; one for the View Impact Areas and the other for Way-finding priorities such as the wall enhancements, primary directional signage, theme monuments, entry monuments, pedestrian fencing/bridge fencing and the kiosks. The cost estimates for the View Impact Areas included both high and low cost estimates between \$3,472,495 and \$4,365,411. The estimates for artwork inside the roundabouts were more expensive than just landscaping such as native grasses.

Mr. Atkins asked for comments and questions from the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Buck said that the cost estimates were depressing.

Councilor Harvey said he wanted to mention again that the Fruita Arts and Culture Board would really like to be some part of the planning process for the roundabouts. The Evening of Art Gala that will be held in March of 2017 is specifically being held to raise money for the roundabout.

City Manager Mike Bennett said he thought the City does have some opportunities to do some small things to the roundabouts and it would be great to partner with the Arts & Culture Board, so staff was planning on inviting the board to the January Council workshop session to discuss the matter. He continued that as far as a concept plan, staff does have to wrap it up because they have already asked for grant extensions twice. He said staff was hoping for feedback from the Council and then the consultant would have a little bit of time to make some changes in the concept, but the plan has to be adopted by the Council in January and the staff has to close out the grant by the end of February.

Mr. Bennett added that the City does have some funding for the roundabouts for simple items.

Mayor Buck said that putting rock art in the roundabouts is so simple and inexpensive and that the City could take it to the Arts and Culture Board for them to prepare a design. She said she couldn't believe that there wouldn't be some available volunteer labor to actually install the design as well.

Mayor Buck said she thought the Concept Plan was great and she thought it would be amazing if the City could come up with the money to do a lot of things included in it. She asked the other Council members if they were okay with the Concept Plan.

Councilor Brackett stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met the previous evening and had some very good discussion and ideas on the whole concept. He said that the board was very favorable with the bridge idea. Councilor Brackett said that interstates in different states whether it's the St. Louis Gateway or coming into Denver on the north side where there is a large gateway bridge, people see that these are very striking and attractive, so the board feels that bridge enhancements were very important to include. In regards to the roundabouts, there was some discussion on affordability and simplicity. He said there was one idea that was presented about putting some statuettes in the roundabouts (for instance) of children pointing to the Colorado National Monument.

Councilor Brackett noted that there is a brass monument at the Vietnam Memorial that features children and a military service member and many people comment on it every year when services are held there. He said that statutes of children would be an idea worth considering because Fruita is a family-oriented community.

Councilor Brackett continued that the board also discussed signage along the sidewalks and that the signs should be as simple as possible and should not focus on the gear so much because it (the gear) could be overdone as was mentioned by Mr. Atkins and may not be as relevant in 30 or 40 years. He added that if there are events or activities that need promoted, these could be placed temporarily on the existing poles that currently feature the F in the gear logo for people to see as they come into the City.

The Parks and Recreation Board also discussed rock designs featuring bikers and dinosaurs and they felt that these were favorable because when people come into Fruita, they would notice the rock architecture or designs that were simple yet still told a story. They also discussed looking at what the City already has and can use as far as xeriscaping as opposed to putting in expensive landscaping.

Councilor Kincaid said he thought the Conceptual Design Plan was good for a concept, although Fruita is a long way off from raising enough funds to complete the projects. He agreed that the City should start with simple items.

Councilor Kincaid added that the roundabouts are definitely a priority that the City needs to address and that partnering with the different boards would be a good way to get ideas to achieve designs for those.

Councilor Kincaid asked that if the Council were to approve the Conceptual Design, would the City be locked into it or would there be a process where more public input is received and where potential changes could be made?

Mayor Buck said the Conceptual Design would not go to a public hearing.

City Engineer Sam Atkins stated that nothing in the Conceptual Design Plan was set in stone.

Councilor Kincaid recalled that during the Downtown Conceptual Design process, there was a lot of public input that was involved in regards to some of the detail.

Mayor Buck said she felt that Fruita is still pretty far away from that because the City won't have the funds for quite a while.

Councilor Kincaid said he thought the plan looks good and that Mr. Atkins did a good job presenting it.

Councilor Kreie referred to the aluminum plate bike chain rings on the illustration of the Primary Directional Sign and asked if they looked weird to anybody else besides him because they looked thin.

Councilor Kincaid said that they were supposed to be bike gears.

Mr. Atkins said this is why staff asked the consultant to remove the gears off to show the signs without them.

Councilor Kreie said he just thought they would look better if they were thicker.

City Manager Mike Bennett reiterated that staff requested that the gears be removed from the drawings.

Councilor Bonar said the gears made the signs look too busy. He added that one chain ring would do.

Councilor Kincaid stated that most chain rings have three or four bolts connecting them and that the drawings of the bike chain rings weren't even accurate, so this may be part of why they looked funny.

Mayor Buck asked everyone to remember that the drawings were just part of a concept.

Councilor Kreie stated that the Downtown Advisory Board would also like to be involved.

Mayor Buck said she supposed that when it comes time to see which tiny pieces the City could actually afford, staff would bring those back to the Council and those conversations could be held at that point.

Mr. Bennett agreed that a phased approach would definitely be necessary, but the Conceptual Design was to help see all of the pieces and which ones cost more. He noted that the first rendition really just focused on what is the most visible, but staff had the consultants do a secondary rendition to also include what the most likely realistic approach would be. Mr. Bennett suggested that if the Arts and Culture and Downtown Advisory Boards were meeting in January, staff could take the Conceptual Design Plan to those meetings.

Councilor Kreie said he wondered if there was a way to incorporate solar panels like they have in Rifle, which would promote Fruita as an environmentally friendly community.

Councilor Harvey said he thought his only input was that the Arts and Culture Board wants to be involved and that it would be great if that board could attend the January workshop meeting of the City Council.

Councilor Karisny said that the feedback he would give to Ted Ciavonne is that the sequence of the plan (if money were not a factor) makes sense; that the initial view of Fruita is the bridge, the second is the roundabouts and third, the area around it. He said the economically, this is not the sequence in which it will work and it sounded like currently most of the attention was about doing something with the roundabouts, which is the comment he receives and agrees with because they look undone.

Councilor Karisny added that having the Arts and Culture Board involved in the process would be great.

Councilor Karisny also recalled that Ted Ciavonne had said that the artistic rock landscaping in the right-of-ways off the interstate was the least expensive. He wondered if this could be part of the initial options of things that could be done with the roundabouts and if Mr. Ciavonne would have any more feedback on that.

Councilor Karisny stated that as far as the sketches in the plan go, he thought they were great ideas, but he doubted that Fruita would have the capacity (or maybe not even the desire) to do anything exactly the way that they had been shown in the plan. He added that the Concept Plan was helpful, however.

Mr. Atkins asked Councilor Karisny what rock landscaping he was referring to and Councilor Karisny responded that Mr. Ciavonne had indicated when he came to the Council meeting a few months ago with a few drawings of dinosaur bones over the interstate on the bridge, he showed the rock landscaping underneath the interstate that had designs of dinosaurs and some other things. This was a rock design; a flat surface rather than grass and Mr. Ciavonne called it “artistic rock landscaping design.”

Mr. Atkins said he believed it was included in the proposed Conceptual Design Plan for the interstate slope treatments that were \$4.00 per square foot as opposed to \$1.25 per square foot for native grasses.

Mayor Buck agreed that getting a flat surface on the roundabouts with a cool design would be a positive addition, fun for people to see and easy.

Councilor Karisny responded that line of sight is kind of issue, so something large could not be placed in the roundabouts.

Councilor Bonar stated that certainly it seems that for the best “bang for the buck,” the most important thing the City could do is something with the roundabouts because they just look unfinished and ugly. He said that the idea of just putting some sort of surface on the vertical part and putting a sandstone capstone on it at least would make it look finished. He said he liked the idea of not uniformly-spaced vertical grooves and having either Fruita lettering or possibly pictograph/dinosaur kind of designs and that this seems like the easiest way to get something positive out of the plan in the shortest timeframe.

Councilor Bonar continued that as far as sculpture or other things in the roundabouts, he recalled that the Museum of Western Colorado proposed a 75-foot tall allosaurus that could be seen from the interstate and cost around \$750,000. He said he also remembered a proposal for a copy of the John Otto statue that would be looking at the Monument that cost \$40,000. Councilor Bonar said there have been a lot of ideas that have been kicked around, but something that isn’t too distracting or visually blocking but would fill up the middle would be nice. He added that the easiest idea was the vertical piece.

Councilor Bonar said that in regards to the Visual Impact Area #1 (the bridge), if the City has the budget to do some sort of ornamental superstructure on it, his first thought was of the Dunlop Bridge in Le Mans (France) which features a big tire and that Fruita could do the same kind of thing with a big mountain bike tire that would arc over the interstate and tie in with Fruita’s biking theme.

Councilor Bonar said it would be nice if the bridge stood out from all the other bridges on I-70, but this would require a much bigger budget and it would be far more important to widen the bridge so that people could get across the interstate on a bike on it and an ornamental structure could be place on top of that.

Councilor Bonar added that if people are westbound on the interstate and get up to the traffic signal, decorating the roundabouts doesn’t do anything for those people that turn right and go into town, so some sort of directional, way-finding monument sign at that intersection should be an integral part of the plan.

Councilor Bonar said he thinks the consultant nailed it on the areas that have the most visual impact and it is just a matter of choice, taste and cost.

Mayor Buck asked staff have the Arts and Culture Board come to the City Council workshop in January.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS

COUNCILOR BRACKETT

Councilor Bracket reported that at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board the previous evening, the members went over an update on the BLM partnership with the Mack Ridge Trail development. He noted that he and Councilor Karisny had attended the grand opening of one of the trails, along with the City Manager. The board also discussed the lagoon property redevelopment project. The members agreed that they preferred the concept design of having a one-way circular drive around the main body of water because it would enhance outdoor recreation and the parking access would be improved.

Councilor Brackett continued that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board also discussed the turf area; specifically, natural grass versus synthetic. The discussion included the pros and cons of the costs of maintaining natural grass as opposed to putting in artificial turf. Councilor Brackett said that probably 60% of the board members were in favor of the turf as opposed to natural grass. He also said that most of the individuals commented about having two bodies of water with differing depths and having one for ice-skating and winter sports while keeping the larger body of water for fishing and other kinds of recreation.

Councilor Brackett noted that the Sweetheart 5K/10K Run and Health Expo was scheduled for February 13, 2017 and the board members discussed involvement and participation with the community and the Fruita Chamber of Commerce.

The Parks and Recreation Board also discussed the hours of operation at the Fruita Community Center (FCC) and it is anticipated that a change in the hours will go into effect after the first of the year in 2017 whereby the facility will begin opening at 5:30 a.m. but closing earlier on Friday nights. Supporters of the move to open the FCC earlier feel that the FCC would not be competing with the Fruita Health Club in particular by doing this because there are now three additional athletic businesses that have opened in the City.

Councilor Brackett continued that there was some discussion on the corporate rates for passes at the FCC. Parks and Recreation Director Ture Nycum will be communicating with Family Health West and some of the other larger employers in the area to determine the most affordable and beneficial price structure so that revenues and use of the FCC will increase but will not overtax the facility, which is a concern.

Councilor Brackett stated that the last Police Commission meeting was held in November and he had already reported on it. The next Police Commission meeting will be held in January of 2017.

COUNCILOR KINCAID

Councilor Kincaid reported that he had just come from the Museum of Western Colorado's Board of Directors meeting and they approved their budget, which is tight, just like everyone else's. An ongoing concern for the MWC is staffing in 2017. Another concern they have is that the Mesa County Commissioners have talked about cutting their funding. Mesa County said they cannot guarantee their normal contribution of \$375,000 per year. The MWC is also preparing for all the events they hold for 2017 and discussing how to make them more efficient with less man hours being involved.

Councilor Kincaid said the MWC has not made any concrete decisions about consolidating their properties and assets and that they are having to dip into about 4% of their reserve funds per year, which is another concern.

COUNCILOR KREIE

Councilor Kreie reported that the Associated Governments of Northwestern Colorado (AGNC) met on November 16th and mainly discussed election results. He noted that AGNC had asked the City to host their next board meeting in February and that it would be valuable for the Council and staff to have good attendance.

Councilor Kreie noted that the Downtown Advisory Board would be meeting the following week.

COUNCILOR HARVEY

Councilor Harvey said his meetings were forthcoming, so he didn't have anything to report yet.

COUNCILOR KARISNY

Councilor Karisny reported that the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority met the previous Wednesday to adopt their 2017 Budget and also the Management Contract with the City of Grand Junction. The adopted budget is approximately \$230,000 and the contract with Grand Junction is about \$200,000. The 5-2-1 manages the City of Fruita's MS4 compliance issues and also provides public outreach.

Councilor Karisny noted that the last time the 5-2-1 met was in June of 2016 and the next time they will meet will likely be in February of 2017, but they are not sure.

COUNCILOR BONAR

Councilor Bonar reported that the Historic Preservation Board had a potluck social event instead of their regular monthly meeting.

Councilor Bonar also reported that the Board of Adjustments met and approved a setback variance in Red Cliff Mobile Home Park.

MAYOR BUCK

Mayor Buck reported that she and the City Manager met with another prospective business the previous evening. This business' website has actually been changed to state that their bikes are made in Colorado: Aspen and Fruita. The company puts together bikes and produces bike frames. They are looking at two potential properties in the area, although Mayor Buck said she thought they had it narrowed down to one and were supposed to be making an offer on it earlier that day.

Mayor Buck said that if this business can make even a quarter of their business plan happen, it will be really great. She said there would be more information on this to come.

Mayor Buck stated that the Grand Junction Economic Partnership's Strategic Planning meeting was scheduled for the following week. She continued that unless she hears otherwise, she believes that this is the time for Fruita to set its goals for GJEP and where they are supposed to go. Mayor Buck said she continues to push outdoor recreation and agriculture.

Mayor Buck noted that the Holiday Craft Fair at the FCC and the Christmas Parade of Lights would be held the upcoming Saturday.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mike Bennett said that he had asked Fruita Police Chief Judy Macy to share an update with the Council.

Chief Macy announced that she would be retiring from her position in April of 2017. She noted that she has been with the City of Fruita for 15 years and she said it has been the best place she ever worked. Chief Macy thanked the City Council for being so wonderful and supportive.

Mayor Buck thanked Chief Macy for leaving the City some time to make a good transition and asked her if she would be part of that process. Chief Macy said she would, if that is what the Council would like.

Councilor Brackett stated that December 7th (the following day) would mark the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. He noted that people need to remember that part of the country's Greatest Generation sacrificed their lives and that 2,403 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed or mortally wounded during that attack. Councilor Brackett stated that as American Legion Post Commander, he would be presiding over a Remembrance Vigil on the evening of December 7th in front of the Veterans' Memorial Park at 8:15 p.m.

11. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Woods
Deputy City Clerk
City of Fruita